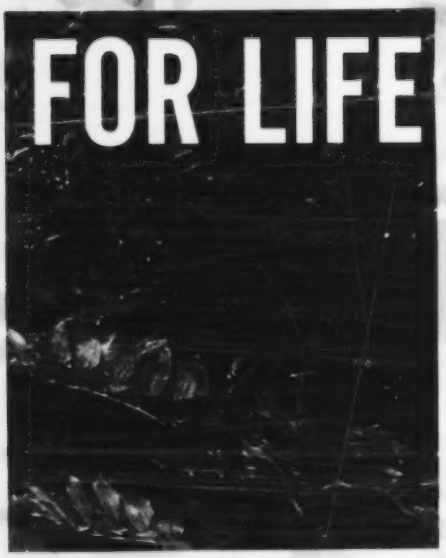
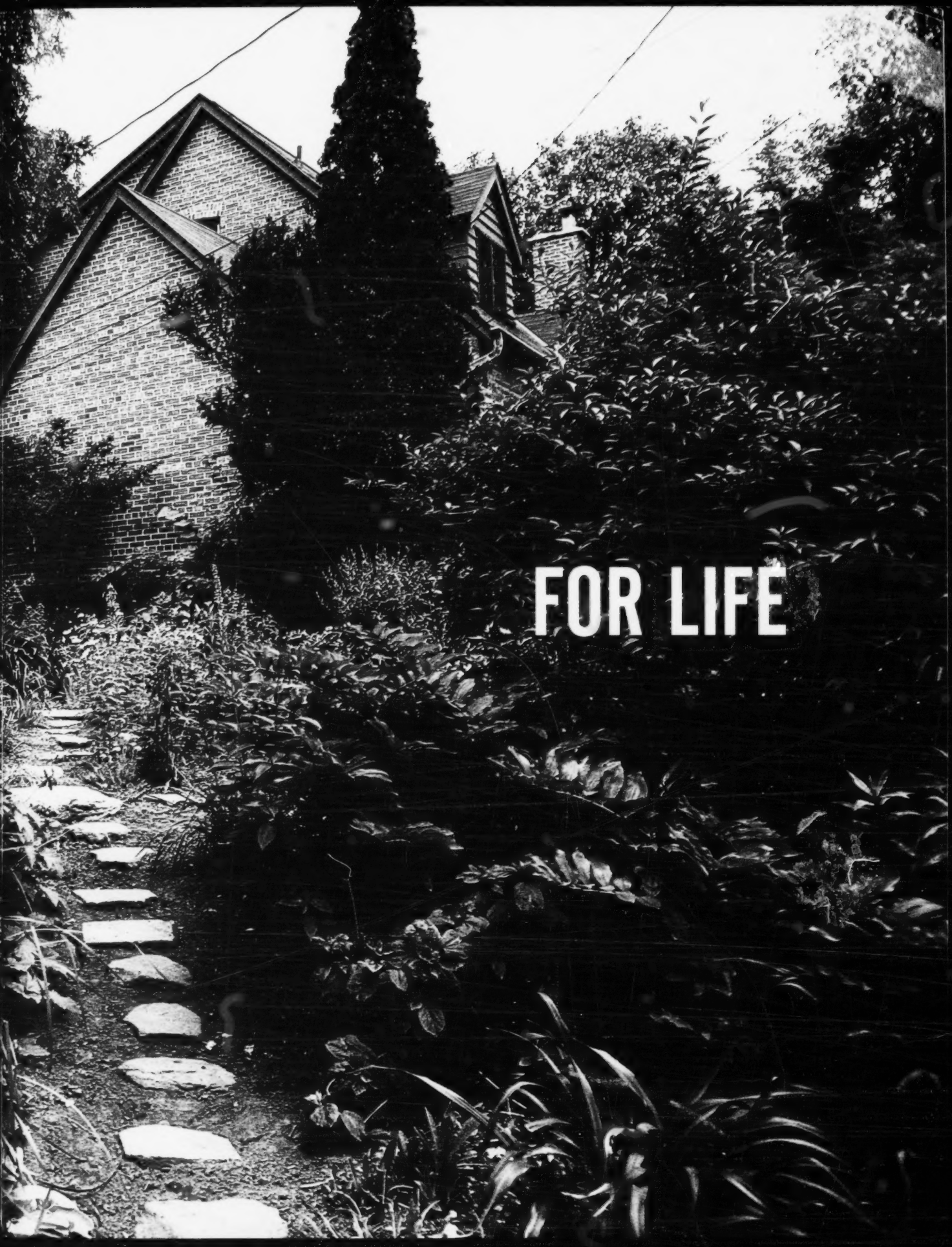
RESTORE NATURE FOR LIFE



ANNUAL REPORT 2003

TORONTO AND REGION Conservation
for The Living City

Member of Conservation Ontario


FOR LIFE

Vision

The quality of life on Earth is being determined in rapidly expanding city regions. Our vision is for a new kind of community, The Living City, where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity.

Mission

Our mission is to work with our partners to ensure that The Living City is built upon a natural foundation of healthy rivers and shorelines, greenspace and biodiversity and sustainable communities.

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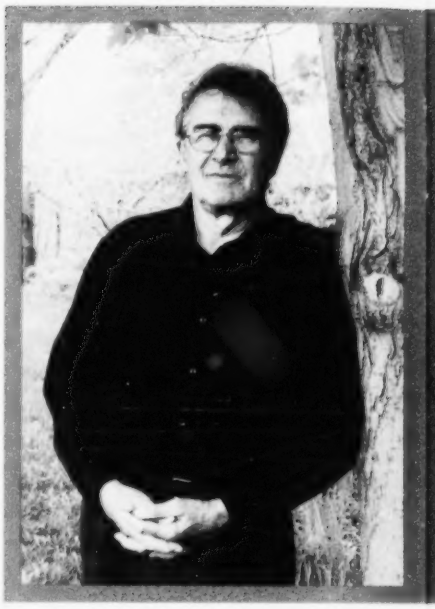
Message from the Chair



It was a watershed year for Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) as we said good-bye to one dedicated and talented chief administrative officer (CAO), Craig Mather, while welcoming an equally dedicated and visionary CAO, Brian Denney. Craig led TRCA in various capacities for an astonishing 32 years, with the pinnacle of his career being his 10 years as CAO. During his tenure as CAO, Craig successfully led the organization, with the support of TRCA's members and his outstanding staff team, through significant funding, political and environmental challenges, in a burgeoning period of extensive urban growth in the Toronto area. Through Craig's guidance, TRCA saw the formation of its vision for The Living City, where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity.

Although TRCA members, staff, partners and stakeholders were sorry to see Craig leave the organization, we were, and are, extremely excited about the future of TRCA under the leadership of Brian Denney. Brian spent 29 years with TRCA before taking over as CAO, whereupon he committed to continuing the essential work TRCA has been accomplishing for 47 years, all the while striving to promote sustainable communities in TRCA's jurisdiction and beyond, ultimately furthering the establishment of the Toronto area as The Living City.

As chair of TRCA, I wish to extend my appreciation to all levels of government, members, staff, volunteers, our community councils, the Conservation Foundation and other partners for their work and support toward our objectives of Healthy Rivers and Shorelines, Regional Biodiversity, Sustainable Communities and Business Excellence. The outstanding achievements in 2003, led and accomplished by TRCA's dedicated staff and partners, enrich the natural systems in our area, and set the stage for the Toronto area becoming a model for sustainability in an increasingly urbanized environment.

Dick O'Brien

Message from the CAO

I am extremely pleased and privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve the dedicated and caring, creative and energetic members and staff of Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) as CAO. It is a very humbling experience to assume leadership of an organization which has thrived under the direction of individuals with the commitment, focus and character of Fred Lunn, Ken Higgs, Bill McLean and Craig Mather. Craig worked effectively to improve the relevance of TRCA to our municipal partners and to encourage the staff to find ways to utilize the continuing pressures of growth to assist in achieving resource management objectives. I am fortunate to have benefited from the collective guidance of each of the previous champions of the organization during my years at TRCA already, and look forward to the challenge of maintaining and enhancing the contribution of TRCA to the complicated, but exciting, process of building one of the most sustainable city regions in the world.

It was a year of great confirmation that TRCA's vision for The Living City is relevant, timely and vital to the future of the Toronto region. The language of sustainability is increasingly present in dialogue at the international, national, provincial and local levels. Leaders are emerging at all levels, in both the public and private sectors, and they see the global imperative for urgent action to create more sustainable city regions. New partnerships are emerging to create the leverage for the necessary market transformations to ensure that, even in the short term, green business is good business. The electricity blackout in August 2003, which on one level, like the Walkerton water tragedy, can be explained as a system failure which should not have occurred, was, on another level, a wake-up call to become much more careful, creative and efficient in our energy use.

Our new advisory board structure, focusing on Sustainable Communities, Watershed Management and Business Excellence, has provided a different context for the important decisions and recommendations which the board makes on a regular basis. The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto continued to broaden the base of support for TRCA. Exciting new partnerships with organizations such as the GTA Clean Air Council and several post-secondary educational institutions have already been made and more will be made shortly. The renewed interest, at the provincial level, in source protection planning will, hopefully, lead to a revitalized partnership with the province for a broader approach to aquatic and terrestrial natural system management. The emerging federal and provincial concern for more vibrant cities should spark new support for TRCA's existing and developing programs.

Every year offers unique challenges to our communities and staff. The SARS outbreak, West Nile Virus and the Asian Long-horned Beetle each impacted various aspects of TRCA's operations. The resourcefulness of the staff allowed us to develop appropriate responses to each of these unusual tests.

I hope you enjoy reviewing this summary of TRCA's diverse activities presented in our annual report for 2003. On behalf of all the staff, I am pleased to take this opportunity to thank our municipal, provincial and federal partners, as well as the thousands of individuals and businesses who contribute in so many ways to the success of the great community alliance which TRCA represents.

Brian Denney

Brian Denney

Healthy Rivers and Shorelines

We are committed to restoring the integrity and health of our waters from the Oak Ridges Moraine throughout our nine watersheds, to the Toronto waterfront of Lake Ontario.

2003 Overview

A continued environmental concern within TRCA's watersheds, and ever increasingly all watersheds on Earth, is the depletion and degradation of our drinkable water supply. TRCA is continuing to protect and restore the natural resources of its watersheds, and is utilizing state-of-the-art science to improve its practices. One such initiative was the development of Ontario's first integrated watershed plan — *A Watershed Plan for Duffins and Carruthers Creek*. This plan, supported by many government bodies in the watersheds, is the new standard on which other watershed plans will now be modelled. As a result of the recommendations from the Walkerton Inquiry, TRCA worked with other conservation authorities on a work plan to fulfill watershed planning requirements of source protection planning, as a method to ensure that a consistent approach to watershed planning is undertaken by the 36 conservation authorities in Ontario. Through these types of new or improved initiatives, as well as TRCA's core programs, facilitated through partnerships with the community at large, the Healthy Rivers and Shorelines objective can be achieved.

Left: Green frog.

Don River Watershed

Work for the naturalization and flood protection of "at risk" areas at the **Don River mouth** continued with the completion of studies on the project area's existing natural and cultural heritage environment. TRCA is managing the environmental assessment process for the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project, anticipated to be completed in October 2004. Consultants will be hired shortly to undertake work for the second project, the Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project.

The **Don Watershed Regeneration Council** concluded their term by holding a 10th anniversary celebration. The third Don report card was released and recognized the challenges and future issues facing the watershed and its stakeholders. The council provided leadership on many policy-related issues at various levels and continued to raise awareness and funds through public events. Many new relationships with businesses located in the watershed were formed, and existing relationships were rejuvenated.

Community outreach, regeneration and restoration work continued throughout the watershed. Achievements included the opening of Rupert's Pond in Vaughan, completion of shoreline restoration work on Richmond Hill's Mill Pond, community and corporate planting events in Markham, and the completion of Beechwood Wetland in partnership with the City of Toronto.

Duffins and Carruthers Creek Watershed

With a plan in place and significant government funds to get the ball rolling, three years of work and countless hours of volunteer time saw a ***Watershed Plan for Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek*** hit the ground running. As the first of its kind in Ontario, a watershed plan grounded by state-of-the-art science, it raised the bar and was held high as the template toward which other watershed plans will strive. With a new kind of plan comes a new way of implementation. Consultations are well underway to define a model to implement a plan for a unique situation of over 50 per cent public ownership.

The plan was presented to and endorsed by five local and two regional municipalities. As a result, the Town of Ajax amended its Official Plan and the City of Pickering has embraced the watershed plan in its Growth Management Study.

Federal support saw Transport Canada enter a multi-year partnership to implement **sustainable watershed management practices** on the Pickering Lands site in the Duffins and Rouge watersheds. On the ground, Transport Canada continued to do its part with a staff planting day along a 150-metre section of Wixon Creek.

In support of the goal to increase natural cover in two watersheds, the minister of Natural Resources announced in August that seven **habitat creation and regeneration projects**, six in the Duffins

Top to bottom: bog preservation, Preston Lake; tree planting at Snelgrove; Heart Lake shoreline restoration; Boyd wetland habitat creation, before and after.

Creek watershed and one on the adjacent Frenchman's Bay waterfront, would be made possible as a result of $325,000 in Ontario Living Legacy Funds.

Honours were given for outstanding **rehabilitation efforts** when the Aggregate Producers of Ontario presented the Bronze Plaque Award to TRCA and its partners for the Glen Major Resource Management Tract Project.

Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds

The management plan, ***Greening our Watersheds: Revitalization Strategies for Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks***, won the 2003 Ontario Professional Planners Institute's Excellence in Planning Award. The Etobicoke and Mimico Creek watersheds coalition completed the first successful year of implementing Greening our Watersheds. Planning initiatives included launching an integrated subwatershed plan for the Etobicoke Creek headwaters; initiating a master plan for the Heart Lake Conservation Area; initiating a trails master plan to amalgamate trail plans of the four watershed municipalities, and completing the Etobicoke and Mimico Habitat Implementation Plan.

Over 10,000 people participated in 27 Etobicoke and Mimico watershed events coordinated by TRCA to **engage the community**, and environmental stewardship groups in Central Mississauga, Malton and South Mimico were initiated to help implement the Etobicoke and Mimico watershed strategy. The Peel Children's Water Festival at Heart Lake Conservation Area was a great success, attracting over 9,000 participants. A four-year partnership with the Region of Peel and the City of Brampton was launched to naturalize Etobicoke Creek in north Brampton.

Achievements to **restore habitats** included planting 3,497 trees and shrubs and 2,000 aquatic plants, enhancing 300 m^2 of sand dune habitat, cleaning out 100 bags of garbage from the creeks and restoring 1,710 m^2 of riparian habitat.

Humber River Watershed

Watershed and subwatershed planning continued in 2003. Preliminary work including project approvals, development of a work plan and resource projections was initiated for the development of the Humber Watershed Plan to satisfy the requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Phase 1 of the Centreville Creek Subwatershed Study including a characterization report, and stakeholder and technical workshops was completed. Phase 2 of the study, involving an evaluation of alternative land use scenarios, was initiated.

After three years of hard work, the **Humber Watershed Alliance** ended its 2000-2003 term. In a new progress report, the alliance was pleased to report many initiatives and signs proving that the Humber is becoming healthier. Ten thousand people participated in habitat enhancement, clean-up and environmental awareness activities on the Humber. Work continued at 12 Community Action Sites, where local community partners planned and implemented environmental regeneration projects. TRCA initiated an urban agriculture project in partnership with the City of Toronto, which will help to achieve our Sustainable Communities objective. An original oil painting by Cory Trepanier was commissioned and a display was produced to highlight the natural and human heritage of the Humber River and TRCA's recreational values.

2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed natural and cultural heritage studies on the mouth of the Don River
- Launched a state-of-the-art watershed plan for Duffins and Carruthers Creeks
- Celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Don Watershed Regeneration Council
- Secured $22.5 million in funding for two major Toronto waterfront projects
- Improved sustainable technologies for water management
- Continued restoration of polluted waterways in Toronto

Rouge Park and the Rouge Watershed

The Town of Markham approved a major Official Plan Amendment to incorporate the **Rouge North Management Plan** and make Rouge Park a reality in Markham. An ecologically significant property of five hectares with forested habitat, within the park boundary in Toronto, was added to Rouge Park. Rouge Park staff and alliance members began working with TRCA on the Rouge Watershed Plan in 2003. An archaeological inventory of the Little Rouge Corridor was undertaken by TRCA, funded by Rouge Park.

Rouge Park provided $267,500 of seed money for **natural and cultural heritage projects** and added the Small Grants Program to our funding available for community groups. We celebrated Canadian Rivers Day with the official naming of Willowgrove Creek in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Volunteers participating in the inaugural Rouge Park Christmas Bird Count reported 57 species and over 13,000 individual birds.

The 2003 **Rouge Park Award** was presented to the Honourable David Crombie to celebrate his role in founding Rouge Park, and as an urban environmental advocate.

Highland Creek Watershed

The Highland Creek Environmental Stewardship Program, with the help of its steering committee, continued to raise community awareness and engaged hundreds of watershed residents in plantings, clean-ups and habitat enhancement events.

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Lake Ontario Waterfront

TRCA signed **delivery agreements** with the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation to fund two waterfront projects: $6.5 million for Mimico Linear Park and $16 million to continue the Port Union Project. Work continued successfully with the public to select a preferred design for the Guild Inn Shoreline Regeneration Project as part of the class environmental assessment process.

Frenchman's Bay Watershed Rehabilitation Project launched four new programs: Woodlot Management, Stream Management, Common Tern Monitoring and West Shore Habitat Initiative. A total of 1,400 volunteers were engaged through these and other existing programs. In addition, $125,000 was received from the provincial Living Legacy Program for the Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park.

The **Queen Street Apartments Slope Stabilization Project** was completed in the fall, repairing a major slope failure that had created a safety hazard for residents of a nearby apartment building. The Fishleigh Drive Erosion Control Project continued as three armourstone groynes and a portion of a revetment were constructed along the shoreline to protect several properties at the top of the bluffs.

Access improvement work continued with dredging in Coatsworth Cut to provide access to Lake Ontario for several boat clubs and the general public. The master plan update for the Arsenal Lands property was initiated with project partners the City of Toronto, City of Mississauga and Region of Peel. Canada Post Corporation presented TRCA with a cheque for $928,000 for park implementation and the 10-year monitoring requirements.

The Toronto Bird Observatory was relocated to Tommy Thompson Park, and a new banding program was launched. Cell 1 Capping also continued. Major habitat components were designed for implementation in 2004 including the creation of a lacustrine marsh.

The Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy was completed including the identification of potential for self-sustaining aquatic communities in open coast, sheltered embayments, coastal wetlands and estuaries. TRCA provided environmental and planning input to Toronto's Central Waterfront Plan and the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation's Development Plan and Business Strategy, including the Public Spaces Framework document.

Water Management

A technical working group of Conservation Ontario prepared a response to the Provincial Advisory Committee report on a watershed-based **source protection** plan framework. Many report recommendations have significant implications for conservation authorities that will greatly strengthen our watershed management capabilities and support TRCA's efforts toward achieving The Living City and Remedial Action Plan objectives.

TRCA staff worked together with representatives from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and York Region to develop a work plan for fulfilling the **watershed planning** requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Participants agreed on a generic watershed planning process and a set of key deliverables. The work plan helps to ensure that a consistent approach to watershed planning is taken among conservation authorities and provides a basis for developing long-range budgets with our municipal partners.

Significant progress toward developing a regional-scale model of geology and groundwater flow was achieved through work by the York-Peel-Durham-Toronto (YPDT) **Groundwater Management Study** team. TRCA staff contributed to calibrating and testing the model by conducting field measurements of groundwater infiltration and discharge. Draft policy papers on wellhead protection and governance of the YPDT initiative were prepared and issued for review.

Building on the City of Toronto's Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan, work was undertaken to refine and calibrate a hydrologic model (HSP-F) for portions of the TRCA jurisdiction outside of the City of Toronto. The model will be used to develop water budgets and evaluate the benefits of implementing **stormwater management** best practices and retrofit opportunities.

An agricultural water quality model (AGNPS) was applied in the rural portions of TRCA watersheds to identify the most predominant source areas for pollutants of concern. Information generated by the model is being used to help focus our efforts to promote on-farm best management practices through the **Rural Clean Water Program**.

Efforts to improve **sustainable technologies** continued in 2003. In partnership with Seneca College, several universities and local governments, TRCA formed the Greenroof Systems Consortium, with a mandate to pursue innovative building technologies for sustainable development and to quantify their benefits relating to global warming, air pollution, stormwater control, and water and energy conservation. Research on greenroof systems began at a site atop the York University computer science building, where climate and run-off measurements continue to be taken. The Consortium launched a Web site (www.sustainabletechnologies.ca) to promote greenroof systems and other sustainable technologies and to disseminate research findings.

The TRCA **Low Flow Monitoring Program** involves the annual collection of stream flow information during periods of low flow at more than 900 locations across the jurisdiction. A new component of the program was initiated involving field verification of over 300 water users. Information collected through this program will be used to calculate water budgets, identify sensitive groundwater discharge areas and establish management targets through our integrated watershed plans.

A number of updates were made to the TRCA **Flood Warning Program** including adopting the GTA Flood Program delivery standards, switching to a Web-based fax and voice messaging system for issuing flood warning communications and increasing the number of trained staff to act as flood duty officers. In 2003, staff issued 44 flood messages under the categories consistent with the GTA conservation authorities.

Regional Watershed Monitoring

Data on **watershed health** was collected at more than 350 sites within TRCA's nine watersheds. Indicators related to aquatic habitat and species, water quality, groundwater, fluvial geomorphology, stream flow and precipitation were selected and monitored using standardized protocols.

Data collected through regional monitoring activities was shared with network partners in a variety of ways including technical reports and advancements to TRCA's relational database structure.

In addition, an innovative Web-based reporting and data analysis system was developed for the Humber watershed in partnership with York University and Environment Canada. The **JUTURNA project** focuses on the development of a Web-based data assessment and reporting system to support TRCA's Regional Watershed Monitoring Program. The pilot for this project demonstrates how biological monitoring and abiotic data can be presented in a geographic context to facilitate the sharing of watershed monitoring data with civic, scientific and political stakeholders.

Key **partnerships** were fostered and maintained in 2003 including support from the regions of York, Peel, Durham and the City of Toronto. Monitoring activities were undertaken in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, City of Mississauga, Town of Richmond Hill, University of Toronto, York University, Citizens Environment Watch, Rouge Valley Conservation Centre and watershed residents.

Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation

Through a five-year (2002-2007) partnership agreement with Environment Canada (EC) and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE), TRCA acts as the implementation coordinator for the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (Toronto RAP). Our role is to raise municipal and key stakeholder awareness of RAP priority issues, facilitate the exchange of information among implementers and coordinate implementation plans, focus RAP implementation on a watershed-by-watershed basis and report on progress. The Toronto RAP Area of Concern encompasses most of TRCA's jurisdiction.

Each partner provides $250,000 annually to TRCA. The fundamental goal of the Toronto RAP is to restore our polluted waterways and the Toronto Waterfront. Integration of The Living City vision into strategies for restoring the Toronto and region Area of Concern is a key strategic direction under this partnership. TRCA's goals are highly complementary to those of the Toronto RAP, enabling us to leverage significant financial contributions from municipalities and other sources. We look forward to continuing this work, finding regional solutions to Great Lakes Basin challenges.

Top to bottom: Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park; Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy meeting; Arsenal Lands; water and fish monitoring.

Regional Biodiversity

We are dedicated to protecting and restoring a system of natural areas that provide habitat for diverse plant and animal species, improve air quality and provide opportunities for the enjoyment of nature.

2003 Overview

The Province of Ontario, especially lands within TRCA's jurisdiction, is experiencing intensive urban growth, which is putting our natural resources at risk. Further to the initiatives of the provincial government and our member municipalities to manage this growth, TRCA has continued with its land acquisition, reforestation, regeneration, flood and erosion control, private land stewardship and terrestrial natural heritage programs as tools to further the protection of environmentally important lands within our jurisdiction. TRCA continues to work with the development community to ensure responsible expansion within our watersheds, and is striving to ensure new sustainable technologies are incorporated into design practices. In 2003, a significant threat to our regions' forest cover emerged with the discovery of an Asian Long-horned Beetle infestation in the cities of Toronto and Vaughan. Significant efforts were made in 2003 to eradicate this pest and TRCA continues to work with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and affected local and regional municipalities to combat one of the greatest threats to the regional biodiversity of the province and Canada.

Left: Black Crown Night Heron and Snowy Egret at Tommy Thompson Park.

Terrestrial Natural Heritage

Work to develop a strategy for protecting and regenerating the terrestrial natural heritage system continued in 2003. Staff developed methodologies for evaluating the condition of habitat patches, identifying where habitat should be protected or restored, and defining a healthy terrestrial system for our watersheds. A first draft of the ***Terrestrial Natural Heritage Strategy*** was completed, including a natural land cover target map and recommendations for incorporating the target into land use policy documents. Detailed field inventories were conducted on 7,500 hectares of land, bringing the surveyed portion of natural cover within the TRCA jurisdiction to 50 per cent.

Through the **Terrestrial Volunteer Monitoring Program**, TRCA partnered with, trained and supported over 20 additional volunteers since the end of 2002. Another 18 monitoring sites were established, for a total of 49 sites across the jurisdiction.

In partnership with graduate student researchers at the University of Toronto and Ryerson University, TRCA staff helped to develop a method for **identifying historical sites** for wetland restoration that utilizes a geographic information system to correlate information on current conditions with known locations of wetlands in the past. A pilot study of the Humber watershed was conducted to test the method.

In September, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced the discovery of the **Asian Long-horned Beetle** in an industrial area in Vaughan. This beetle has devastated forests in China and poses a serious threat to our forests and urban tree canopy. TRCA, York Region, City of Toronto, City of Vaughan and other stakeholders supported CFIA in developing an aggressive program to eradicate this pest involving removal of all host trees, including our native maples, elms, birches, poplars and willows within a specified radius of the infected area. Eradication and reforestation efforts will continue.

Land Acquisition

TRCA secured 78 hectares of environmentally important land through acquisitions and easements, bringing the total amount of greenspace under TRCA ownership to almost 14,000 hectares. This included acquisition and protection of 46 hectares of the Lake Wilcox Bog ESA, Rouge River watershed in the Town of Richmond Hill and 12 hectares of the Carruthers Creek Forest ESA in the Town of Ajax. As well, an important six-hectare parcel in the Rouge Park was purchased with funding support from the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto. Sixteen acquisitions were also completed, and staff negotiated limited interest acquisitions totalling three hectares.

Top to bottom: Spadina Quay wetland; erosion control project, Toronto waterfront; terrestrial monitoring; nodding trillium; Asian Long-horned Beetle.

Reforestation and Regeneration

TRCA planted 113,324 native trees and shrubs in 2003. A total of 20,762 plants were supplied to other GTA conservation authorities and non-government organizations.

TRCA exceeded its corporate planting target for 2001-2003, planting a three-year total of 579,752 native trees and shrubs.

Flood and Erosion Control

TRCA successfully secured over $200,000 in funding to carry out five studies and six repairs on our **water and erosion control infrastructure**.

We completed 250 inspections of erosion sites and control structures and began development of a new database for tracking, storing and retrieving vital monitoring and maintenance information.

Erosion control projects were completed at 8 Bitteroot Road (Don River) and 16-18 Hardwood Gate (Humber River) in the City of Toronto.

The Cell 1 Capping Project began at Tommy Thompson Park (TTP), which will result in the largest **coastal wetland creation** ever in the GTA. Other new projects included implementation of the overall TTP Master Plan and creation of a 13-hectare complex of wetlands and terrestrial habitats.

Past habitat work at TTP resulted in record numbers of Caspian terns in 2003. The Ecology Unit responded to the discovery of one exotic **Asian grass carp** in the lower Don River, with an extensive monitoring program. Fortunately, our efforts found no further evidence of this destructive non-native species.

2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Acquired 78 hectares of environmentally important land**
- **Planted 113,324 native trees and shrubs**
- **Secured over $200,000 in funding for water and erosion control infrastructure**
- **Completed field surveying of 50 per cent of TRCA's jurisdiction**
- **Supported ongoing implementation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan**
- **Protected natural heritage in the GTA through numerous external partnerships**

Development Services

Municipal **planning** applications remained steady in volume, with a total of 1,250 submissions in 2003.

Of 44 new Environmental Assessment Act (EA) submissions, many were large-scale projects with extensive technical review. Staff prepared expert review and testimony for eight Ontario Municipal Board hearings. We received 1,110 solicitor inquiries for regulatory and planning policy information; a nine per cent increase over 2002.

Permit applications remained high with 476 applications received and 365 permits issued. Planning input for all applications honours our Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) three-level agreement, and supports provincial planning directions.

Following completion of the initial Official Plan conformity exercise for the **Oak Ridges Moraine** (ORM) with three regional partners in 2002 and 2003, efforts continued to fulfil ORM work plan requirements. Conservation authorities became the lead agency to implement this plan. The Rouge Watershed Plan process and the Humber Watershed Plan study began. An urgently needed watershed policy framework project also commenced with municipal partners.

Staff helped to interpret the provincial ORM Conservation Plan (ORMCP) regarding individual development applications, and defended the plan objectives at several Ontario Municipal Board hearings. TRCA continues to test for ORM implementation guidelines on landform conservation, significant woodlands and natural heritage evaluations with the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC).

TRCA prepared an interim stewardship strategy for the ORM Foundation and successfully established funding for eight implementation projects.

Significant efforts and funding were placed in technical groundwater and hydrogeological activities including completion of well-record updates and base flow monitoring, seismic studies in Caledon and Schomberg, and borehole testing in High Park and Centreton.

TRCA supported a CAMC promotional and educational plan for ORM issues.

Through **external partnerships**, TRCA accomplished the following: assisted with Durham Region's new Official Plan and Peel Region's Official Strategic Plan update; introduced both regional planning groups to the new terrestrial natural heritage preliminary research; worked closely with urban forestry and city planners in Toronto to implement the new ravine by-law; participated in the Brampton Growth Management and Development Review process and Official Plan Environmental Policy Update; worked with Markham staff and their consulting team to complete the Rouge Park North Technical Implementation Guidelines, as part of the Rouge Park North Official Plan Amendment; initiated a scoping process and draft terms of reference for the planning of the Little Rouge Corridor; aided in the Pickering growth management planning exercise, the Airport lands study and Seaton; assisted Ajax in preparing an Official Plan Amendment to incorporate portions of the Duffins and Carruthers Watershed Plan; and advised on specialty projects such as the Federal Greenspace Lands, Downsview Park, Harbourfront Park Master Plan, and site and management planning efforts for ORM lands in Richmond Hill.

TRCA planted 113,324 native trees and shrubs in 2003. A total of 20,762 plants were supplied to other GTA conservation authorities and non-government organizations.

TRCA exceeded its corporate planting target for 2001-2003, planting a three-year total of 579,752 native trees and shrubs.

TRCA successfully secured over $200,000 in funding to carry out five studies and six repairs on our **water and erosion control infrastructure**.

We completed 250 inspections of erosion sites and control structures and began development of a new database for tracking, storing and retrieving vital monitoring and maintenance information.

Erosion control projects were completed at 8 Bitteroot Road (Don River) and 16-18 Hardwood Gate (Humber River) in the City of Toronto.

The Cell 1 Capping Project began at Tommy Thompson Park (TTP), which will result in the largest **coastal wetland creation** ever in the GTA. Other new projects included implementation of the overall TTP Master Plan and creation of a 13-hectare complex of wetlands and terrestrial habitats.

Past habitat work at TTP resulted in record numbers of Caspian terns in 2003. The Ecology Unit responded to the discovery of one exotic **Asian grass carp** in the lower Don River, with an extensive monitoring program. Fortunately, our efforts found no further evidence of this destructive non-native species.

2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Acquired 78 hectares of environmentally important land**
- **Planted 113,324 native trees and shrubs**
- **Secured over $200,000 in funding for water and erosion control infrastructure**
- **Completed field surveying of 50 per cent of TRCA's jurisdiction**
- **Supported ongoing implementation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan**
- **Protected natural heritage in the GTA through numerous external partnerships**

Municipal **planning** applications remained steady in volume, with a total of 1,250 submissions in 2003.

Of 44 new Environmental Assessment Act (EA) submissions, many were large-scale projects with extensive technical review. Staff prepared expert review and testimony for eight Ontario Municipal Board hearings. We received 1,110 solicitor inquiries for regulatory and planning policy information; a nine per cent increase over 2002.

Permit applications remained high with 476 applications received and 365 permits issued. Planning input for all applications honours our Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) three-level agreement, and supports provincial planning directions.

Following completion of the initial Official Plan conformity exercise for the **Oak Ridges Moraine** (ORM) with three regional partners in 2002 and 2003, efforts continued to fulfil ORM work plan requirements. Conservation authorities became the lead agency to implement this plan. The Rouge Watershed Plan process and the Humber Watershed Plan study began. An urgently needed watershed policy framework project also commenced with municipal partners.

Staff helped to interpret the provincial ORM Conservation Plan (ORMCP) regarding individual development applications, and defended the plan objectives at several Ontario Municipal Board hearings. TRCA continues to test for ORM implementation guidelines on landform conservation, significant woodlands and natural heritage evaluations with the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC).

TRCA prepared an interim stewardship strategy for the ORM Foundation and successfully established funding for eight implementation projects.

Significant efforts and funding were placed in technical groundwater and hydrogeological activities including completion of well-record updates and base flow monitoring, seismic studies in Caledon and Schomberg, and borehole testing in High Park and Centreton.

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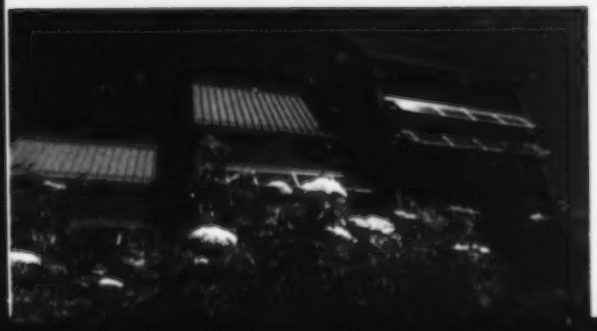
Sustainable Communities

We help community members understand and take action toward sustainable living and city building that improves the quality of life for residents, businesses and nature.

2003 Overview

Humans are using up our natural resources faster than the environment can regenerate them. This is one of the most critical human and environmental health issues facing us this century. TRCA recognizes this and thus developed its objective for Sustainable Communities in an effort to reverse this trend. Numerous sustainable communities projects have been initiated by TRCA, many aimed at providing avenues for research and information sharing of sustainable technologies and design practices that can, and must be, implemented in the Toronto region if we are to establish the region as The Living City. As evident through rising gas and water prices and the 2003 blackout, the natural resources used in our daily lives are not infinitely available for consumption. Action must be taken today by all sectors of society to ensure the availability of such resources for ours and future generations. Climate change is an increasing global concern that cannot be ignored.

Left: solar-powered wind turbines on the Energy Trail, Kortright Centre for Conservation.



The Living City Centre

After much consultation and discussion in previous years around the role of The Living City Centre, 2003 became the year of action. Three introductory programs were launched at the Centre: the Mayors' Megawatt Challenge, Greening Health Care and a speaker series entitled "In Conversation with..." But these weren't the only activities in 2003: several other initiatives came into focus, including Sustainable Schools, the Home Energy Clinic and Sustainable Communities which will be initiated in 2004.

Mississauga's mayor, Hazel McCallion, initiated the launch of the **Mayors' Megawatt Challenge** by inviting mayors from across the GTA to pool their energy management knowledge and experience in order to achieve one megawatt of electrical demand savings during 2003-2004. In all, 12 municipalities, representing nearly 90 per cent of the GTA's population, agreed to participate. The facility directors and managers met in October to develop a plan of action and to begin the process of understanding their energy use and thus where savings can be achieved. The Mayors' Megawatt Challenge is supported financially by TRCA, The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto and the participating municipalities.

Through **Greening Health Care**, led by Leo Steven at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, Jim MacLean of Markham-Stouffville Hospital and Barry Monaghan of West Park Healthcare Centre, hospitals from across the GTA were asked to join forces to save energy, reduce pollution and cut down on waste by sharing best practices and tracking progress. A meeting was held with directors and facility managers in December 2003 to outline a program of action for 2004. More than 15 hospital corporations, representing over 20 hospitals, have expressed a keen interest in participating in the program activities in 2004.

The first of the speakers' series, **"In Conversation with..."**, took place in June 2003 at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. Tjerk Reyenga, CEO of BEAR Architects in the Netherlands, and Martin Liefhebber, a Toronto architect, engaged the audience in an interactive discussion about sustainable urban design and planning. At the second program in November, Alex Zimmerman, president of the Canada Green Building Council, provided a comprehensive look at green buildings from an international perspective, as well as an overview of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification. John van Nostrand of architectsAlliance explored local examples of green facilities, including the Earth Rangers Centre at Kortright, the new Computer Science building at York University and plans for the Kortright Visitor's Centre.

Community Stewardship

As communities across our watershed take on the environmental challenges of **restoring and protecting the natural heritage** of The

Top to bottom: computer science building at York University; tree planting at Knob Hill Park; Rexdale Park wetland; The Green Machine building at The Living City Centre at Kortright.

Living City, our stewardship strategy provides a variety of multi-stakeholder call-to-action products and programs in support of corporate watershed management objectives.

Through the Highland Creek Environmental Stewardship Program, The Bartley Smith Greenway Business and Community Outreach Initiative and the Frenchman's Bay Watershed Rehabilitation Project, we engage youth, schools, businesses, community groups and our partners in a variety of hands-on restoration, habitat creation and monitoring programs. New for 2003 were the West Shore Habitat Initiative and the Markham Backyard Naturalization Program to address specific environmental impacts in urban areas. In support of these programs, we hosted 25 conservation seminars, distributed information through the Stewardship Resource Centre and developed a series of relevant publications. To serve diverse cultural communities across our watersheds, the Multicultural Environmental Stewardship Program supports the stewardship strategy through conducting demographic research, building partnerships and eliminating cultural barriers to deliver environmental stewardship programs.

Private Land Stewardship

The private land stewardship programs are designed to provide technical, educational and financial **assistance to landowners** who want to improve their properties' ecological function through regeneration, restoration, protection or the adoption of new land management practices.

More than 400 landowners in our rural areas were serviced through the Rural Clean Water Program, contributing to our corporate objectives for water quality improvements in the Humber, Duffins, Carruthers and Rouge watersheds. Staff worked in partnership with the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund to apply new technology through the Agricultural Non-Point Source computer model to target priority areas for stewardship and quantify the outcomes. More than 37 landowners participated in the Private Land Tree Planting Program, planting over 26,000 native trees, shrubs and seedlings to enhance riparian buffers, marginal agricultural land reforestation, windbreaks and habitat creation. Our Homes for Local Wildlife Program included the construction and installation of more than 700 songbird boxes and 75 wood duck boxes in wetland and woodland edge habitats across TRCA's jurisdiction.

2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Launched The Living City Centre at Kortright**
- **Made significant improvements to residential education centres**
- **Delivered outreach education to 35,000 participants in the Toronto area**
- **Developed a Volunteer Network Education Program**
- **Received a tourism award for Black Creek Pioneer Village**
- **Hosted the first annual Dragon Boat Festival at Heart Lake Conservation Area**

Educational Programming

Residential Education

Ten thousand participants visited TRCA's three residential field centres resulting in over 260,000 hours of intensive immersion in outdoor environmental learning.

This year marked the completion of 40 continuous years of **Albion Hills** delivering outdoor education to the public and Catholic school boards, as well as various private schools in the Toronto region. Toronto Community Housing called Albion Hills home for its fifth consecutive summer, providing educational programming and outdoor experiences to youth from across the Toronto area.

The eighth anniversary of the partnership with Husky Injection Molding Systems Inc. was celebrated, with more than 500 new students participating in the continuing success of the Environmental Weeks Program at Albion Hills. This popular program was also expanded, due to the kind sponsorship of The Earth Rangers Foundation, providing opportunities for four additional Toronto region school boards to experience the bounty of learning offered at Albion Hills.

Claremont continued to thrive in 2003, ensuring that even with labour disruptions in both of its long-time partners, the Durham District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, hundreds of students still participated in the environmental learning and residential living experience.

Numerous improvements were made to heating and water systems, trails and landscaping. Claremont now has even more educational options to offer our many visitors, plus upgraded energy-efficient systems that will continue to ensure a high standard of comfort and safety, trails even more attractive than before, an all-season compost station and flower beds blossoming with native species.

Lake St. George continued its successful programming, with a number of public, Catholic and private school students in the Toronto area staying at the field centre throughout the year. Long-standing partnerships with the Toronto Catholic and York Region District School Boards remained in place, as did the partnership with the Pre-service Teacher Education Program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

Improvements were made to the kitchen, dorms and boathouse. As well, 2003 marked the 20th anniversary of the Archaeology Field School being run by TRCA, in partnership with the York Region District School Board and the Royal Ontario Museum.

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Education Day Programs

Despite reduced numbers due to SARS and other causes, education programs at **Black Creek Pioneer Village** put in a good showing. A total of 62,000 individuals participated in programs during the 2003 season, including 48,650 students. *Yesterday's Child* and *Christmas Past* were the most popular programs, but hands-on programs such as *Many Hands* and *A Stitch in Time* were also well-booked. Over 10,000 individuals went on general tours.

Outreach Education

Outreach education was delivered to 35,000 participants in their schools and local neighbourhoods, providing over 50,000 hours of accessible ecological learning to the classrooms and communities of the Toronto region.

RIBBIT, the new community outreach vehicle sponsored by local community groups and regional partners, was unveiled in 2003. RIBBIT arrived just in time to deliver the expanded program and staff team to another sold-out year of **Watershed on Wheels** programs.

A new Wild Wetlands Workshop was developed and produced for the Ontario Science Centre, incorporating hands-on programs to highlight the importance of wetlands, the wetland invertebrate community and their sensitivities to changes in the environment.

The **Aquatic Plants Program** completed its eighth consecutive year, visiting more than 50 schools, 100 classes and 3,000 participants. More than 235 kits were distributed and planted by students at various wetland habitat restoration sites within the watersheds.

Community Education

Gone Fishing, the pilot project for the Yellow Fish Road storm drain marking program, was launched in partnership with Trout Unlimited Canada, City of Mississauga, Region of Peel, TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment and Girl Guides of Canada.

Peel Children's Water Festival saw the successful delivery of new educational program activities to an energetic audience, including 5,000 students, 4,000 members of the public and over 1,500 teachers and volunteers.

The **Fifth Annual York Children's Water Festival** at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area attracted over 3,300 children from grades two to five. Forty-two interactive activities gave participants a chance to learn about the importance of clean water and a healthy environment.

The Humber watershed hosted more than 10,000 participants at a variety of special events, including the highly successful **Stream Watch Program**. Planting and wetland enhancement was a key component of many of these events, at locations throughout the watershed, including Black Creek, King City, Claireville, Palgrave and the Granger Greenway.

The first annual **Canadian Rivers Day** (as proclaimed by the federal government) was marked on June 8th, with celebrations and educational activities in the Humber, Don, Highland and Rouge watersheds.

Education Support Services

New education programs developed with internal and external partners provided a wealth of possibilities for teaching and learning.

Investigating Living City Spaces partners education with conservation parks to deliver learning programs at unique locations within the GTA. Fishing and Fisheries Management, the initial pilot program for this new product, was successfully tested at Glen Haffy Conservation Area. These programs launched in the spring of 2004.

Building on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future framework, a TRCA interdepartmental team began developing a **learning curriculum** that defines, from a system perspective, the essential understandings needed as a citizen of The Living City.

In partnership with the Region of Peel, Peel District and Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Boards and Credit Valley Conservation, TRCA developed and piloted the first phase of the **Peel Water Curriculum Resource** at the Peel Children's Water Festival with the successful launch of the first annual Peel EcoFair. At the EcoFair, schools from across Peel Region shared success stories of students implementing projects which helped the sustainability of watersheds in their local communities. A resource manual to support community projects in Peel will be finalized and launched in 2004.

Staff worked with other team members to produce the education resources and multi-media presentations to support the **Ontario Climate Change Project**, a multi-partner project to develop climate change learning resources for the Province of Ontario. The project launched in February 2004.

The **Volunteer Network Education Program**, developed in 2003, assists interested volunteers in leading fun, hands-on learning activities at trade shows, education festivals, watershed events and stewardship events. The program provides volunteers with activity training and ensures that activities at events are of the highest standards. To support the training, staff developed a manual with 10 simple learning activities and general guidelines for leading learning activities with youth and adults. Volunteer recruitment took place in late 2003. Training and implementation took place in spring 2004.

Black Creek Pioneer Village

Black Creek Pioneer Village (BCPV) was voted "One of the Best Places to Visit" by Toronto.com in 2003. Despite a tough year for Toronto attractions, over 140,000 visitors toured BCPV. In addition to the rich variety of programs, demonstrations and special events, BCPV launched a number of new elements to celebrate our cultural diversity, including the music festival, *Sensational Sounds of Summer*, and the exhibit and multimedia presentation *The Underground Railroad: Next Stop Freedom!* BCPV continued with exciting capital improvement projects, the largest of which was the completion of the Dominion Carriage Works. The Village was generously supported through fundraising, and the donation

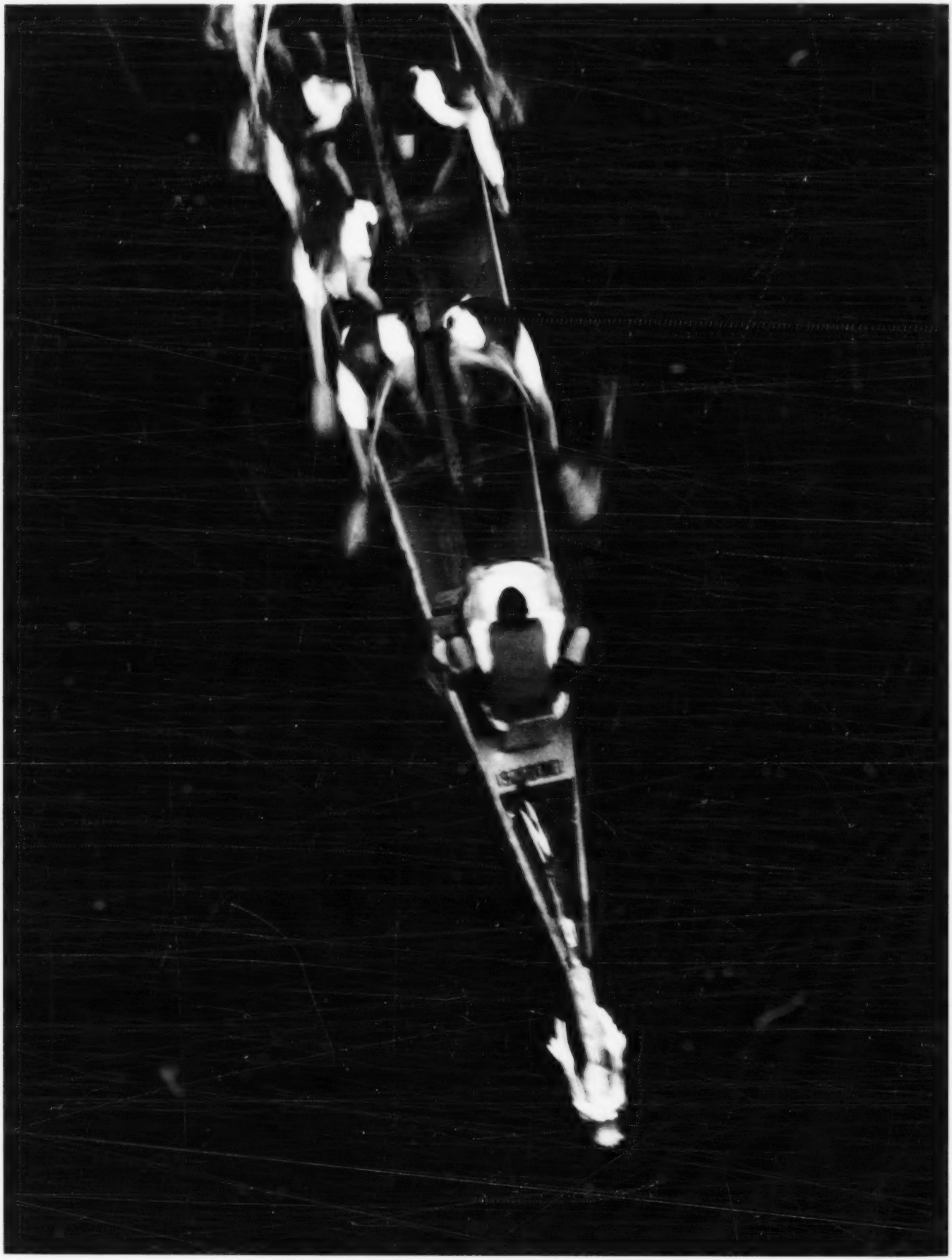
of artifacts to enhance the collections and educational programs. Volunteers contributed over 13,500 hours of service, assisting with fundraising, special events, costume creation, research, collections management and special projects.

Conservation Parks

With the blackout in August and hydro customers in Ontario facing higher electricity bills, interest in renewable energy really took centre stage in 2003. Kortright's **Renewable Energy Workshops** were sold out throughout the year and waiting lists continued to grow. Renewable energy is no longer considered an alternative, but something that is vital to our way of life. To meet the increased demand, Kortright is currently looking at different ways to expand its delivery model of these workshops.

On September 20, Heart Lake hosted its first annual **Dragon Boat Festival**. With 25 teams participating from the Brampton community, the event was a great way to celebrate our natural water heritage. Dragon boat races, a symbol of Chinese culture and spirit, have become popular in cities across North America and around the world. The event raised $19,000 in donations for the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation of Canada.

Top to bottom: Watershed on Wheels program; Sensational Sounds of Summer, Black Creek Pioneer Village; York Children's Water Festival; TRCA's Dragon Boat team.



Business Excellence

We strive for continuous improvement in the development and delivery of all programs through creative partnerships, diverse funding sources and careful auditing of outcomes and effectiveness.

2003 Financial Overview

Strategic direction for TRCA's programs and activities is determined by The Living City, TRCA's strategy and vision document.

Operating expenditures amounted to $22.9 million, approximately $1.3 million over the 2002 actual and $1.3 million below the 2003 budget. The most significant variance from budget continues to be rental expenditures ($0.45 million) associated with the transfer of Ontario Realty Corporation lands, which was not completed in 2003 as had been planned. The balance of the variance from budget, results primarily from expenditure containment measures (e.g., delaying hiring), offsetting the loss in revenue associated with the marked decline in tourism during 2003. The SARS crisis, stronger Canadian dollar, U.S. uncertainty over the Iraq war and the August blackout all contributed to lower operating revenues at TRCA public use facilities. Revenues at Black Creek Pioneer Village were $0.41 million below budget, and revenues for the conservation areas and Kortright were $0.17 million below budget.

Capital expenditures totalled approximately $14.8 million, comparable to 2002 ($10.1 million), but significantly below budget. Expenditures on land acquisition were about $3.3 million below budget, as various potential acquisitions were delayed because of funding issues or prolonged negotiations. The three projects sponsored by the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation were under budget by $2.9 million in total, as contract negotiations took longer than anticipated. The Humber Bay Shores Project was underspent by $1.0 million, as legal proceedings continued. A number of other projects could not be completed or were deferred because of construction or environmental approval delays.

The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto made a significant contribution of almost $1.4 million, similar to 2002. TRCA's municipal partners, the City of Toronto, Peel, York and Durham regions, the Town of Mono and the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, continue to provide about half of all TRCA funding.

A modest surplus of $0.27 million was achieved, through careful expenditure management. The cumulative deficit, $1.3 million in 2000, was reduced from $0.75 million at the end of 2002 to $0.48 million in 2003, continuing TRCA's multi-year commitment to eliminate the deficit. Reserves balances were maintained at the 2002 level of about $2.2 million.

Left: Dragon Boat racing. (Jason Puddifoot/First Light)

Corporate Services

This was a challenging financial year for TRCA, with significant softening of the tourism market due to SARS and a general decline in U.S. travellers. Tourism-dependent programs, such as those offered at Black Creek Pioneer Village and campgrounds, were significantly affected. It was anticipated that the year-end results would be a deficit of almost $500,000, but with mitigating actions, including delays in hiring new employees and other expenditure curtailment, additional cost recoveries under contracts for services, greater revenues from top soil relocation projects and a new fee structure for development services, the financial profile of TRCA saw a $90,000 increase in operating contingency reserve funds and a surplus of $275,000 for the year, which reduced TRCA's accumulated deficit by 37 per cent.

Our **information technology infrastructure** underwent its most significant period of investment in operating capacity. Using a building block approach, the initial investment upgraded the core network, with new cabling, servers and switches including a new copper backbone and switch management software. Significant upgrades were made in network operating systems and improved connectivity was established with the City of Toronto. TRCA is the first agency, board or commission to be connected to the City of Toronto's IT network as an Extranet. This provides TRCA with high-speed connectivity, improved IT communications and security. Internally, employee workstations were updated to a common vintage of software and moved to a hardware standard to allow for more seamless communications inside and outside of the organization.

From a human resources perspective, 2003 saw TRCA focus on creating a more diverse staff complement through the use of **Career Bridge** and **Career Edge** interns. This pilot project fit well with our Environmental Volunteer Network, which is a collaborative venture with OCASI and The Ontario Trillium Foundation, and with our desire to make TRCA a role-model for diversity. TRCA hired two new interns as part of the Career Edge (www.careeredge.ca) and Career Bridge (www.careerbridge.ca) programs. These programs aim to give recent graduates and foreign-trained professionals the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a professional setting. Those of us who have worked directly with our new interns have been thoroughly impressed by their skills, and we are excited about the possibility of expanding our participation in these programs as we strive to provide opportunities to qualified individuals from all cultural backgrounds. We could go on at length about the merits of these programs, but the best testimonial comes from the participants themselves, so here is Arben Pustina's story:

"When I arrived in Toronto, I started to research environmental organizations in the Toronto region. The best way to get involved was volunteering for them. Searching the internet, I found Toronto and

Top to bottom: TRCA employees doing their part for clean air; Dick O'Brien, Craig Mather and Brian Denney at Mather's retirement party; environmentally-friendly weed control at Lester B. Pearson International Airport; Arben Pustina, Career Edge intern; hybrid gas-electric car.

Region Conservation, and it seemed to be a similar organization to the one I was working at in my country of origin (Albania).

"TRCA offered a volunteer program, so I thought it would be a good way to gain experience and find out about employment opportunities. I attended the orientation session, where I found out what volunteer positions were available. After inquiring about a couple of them and after the internal procedures, I was approved to volunteer as a landscape planning assistant. More than that, I was supported by COSTI/Humber College to turn the volunteer position into a two-month placement, and this was welcomed by TRCA.

"After two months of very good experience, I offered to volunteer one more month, full time, in the same position. In the meantime, TRCA registered with Career Edge and we came to an agreement to support an internship for me. It worked out, and since December 2003, I have been an intern working as a conservation land planning assistant. Working here is helping me to get more experience in the Canadian environmental sector, and I am getting more job interviews than in the first six months of arrival in this country."

The TRCA **management team** was transformed with the retirement of our CAO, Craig Mather, and the appointment of Brian Denney as the new CAO. In addition, the team added Ted Fauteux as the executive director of The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto and Adele Freeman as the acting director of watershed management to lead the organization with its new Strategic Plan, presented in draft to the board in 2003.

The renovation at head office continued with a decidedly "green" commitment to alternative energy sources for heating by installing a state-of-the-art **HVAC system**. Savings due to the efficient HVAC systems are difficult to calculate in these early times, but TRCA has made a serious commitment to meet EMS energy saving targets and this initiative is just one of many to come. TRCA also purchased two hybrid cars for fleet purposes. During 2003, we undertook preparatory work for the installation of a breathing wall — a system that passes air through a biological zone, which includes green plants, to break down air contaminants.

Corporate Sustainability

Employee Sustainable Living Programs

TRCA partnered with public health units in the GTA to offer the **20/20 The Way to Clean Air** program to all TRCA employees. The campaign's aim is to help employees reduce their energy use and costs by 20 per cent at home and on the road. The Black Creek Region Transportation Management Association, Green$aver and Pollution Probe are project partners.

TRCA staff also participated in Pollution Probe's **Clean Air Commute**, in which staff keep track of what they do to reduce their transportation emissions. Fifty-two staff participated in the campaign, as well as 15 in a bicycle repair workshop.

Over 60 staff attended **The Sustainability Advantage** seminar, where the speaker made the business case for pursuing a proactive environmental and social strategy.

2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Achieved a $90,000 increase in operating contingency reserve funds**
- **Significantly upgraded IT infrastructure**
- **Provided internships through Career Bridge and Career Edge programs**
- **Attended The Earth Charter in Action conference in Urbino, Italy**
- **Purchased two electric/gasoline hybrid automobiles**
- **Gained over 35,000 hours of volunteer time through the new Environmental Volunteer Network**

Sustainability Partnerships

Earth Charter in Action Conference — Urbino, Italy

TRCA, along with 50 participants from around the world, attended the Earth Charter in Action conference in Urbino, Italy. New connections were made with the staff of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives training centre and Leadership for Environment and Development International to create training programs for local government on the Earth Charter. Global Earth Charter initiatives will continue, including the formal partnership called Educating with the Earth Charter, of which TRCA is a partner.

GTA Clean Air Council

TRCA became a partner in the Clean Air Council. The first joint project of the partnership is to develop a regional scale clean air plan.

City of Toronto Sustainability Roundtable

TRCA continued to be a member of and to provide staff to the City of Toronto's Sustainability Roundtable and its workgroups, where the Sustainability Charter was developed.

Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) Sustainability Initiative

TRCA continued to work with the GTAA on environmental issues of the GTAA Etobicoke Creek Living City Project, initiated by TRCA. The GTAA is committed to restoring and regenerating the natural environment in conjunction with TRCA's Terrestrial Natural Heritage Program, promoting regional biodiversity within our watersheds and ultimately achieving the objectives of The Living City.

Other Partnership Opportunities

Other partnerships explored by TRCA in 2003 include joint research with the Pembina Institute for appropriate development on sustainable community planning and development approaches; collaborative delivery with the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology of a program designed to help small- to medium-sized manufacturing enterprises to improve their energy and environmental performance; work on a number of sustainability-related initiatives with the Canadian Urban Institute, and involvement in the City of Vaughan Environment Committee's process to further incorporate sustainability principles into planning in Vaughan.

Property

The construction of the **Earth Rangers Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre** at Kortright began in the fall of 2002 and continued through 2003, and commenced operation in spring 2004.

Construction of the **Community Safety Village of York Region**, at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, in Whitchurch-Stouffville, began in spring 2003. The facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2004. The six-acre site will provide a miniature village, where children can learn life-saving pedestrian safety rules as they walk, bicycle or drive miniature cars along the village streets.

Staff continued to monitor and add lands to management agreements with the municipalities as part of the management of more than **2,500 properties**, representing almost 14,000 hectares, purchased to date. Staff completed the granting of two permanent easements for municipal servicing.

TRCA staff managed 57 rental homes, 20 farm rentals, and approximately 15 lease agreements and field school agreements, including Wild Water Kingdom, Claireville Ranch and The McMichael Canadian Art Collection. Farm audits were carried out and their recommendations will be implemented for farm leases.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

The EMS, a system for managing, measuring, reporting on and improving our internal environmental performance, was launched in 2003. Highlights include adherence to new mandatory "green" purchasing requirements; monitoring and measuring of computers left on overnight (audits showed that 109 computers were turned off and just four were left on); an official TRCA Pesticides Policy; collection of baseline energy, vehicle and water use statistics; and continuation of operational changes on Smog Alert days. As well, preliminary work was completed toward policies dealing with farm operations on TRCA lands and greening TRCA's vehicle and equipment fleet. Other efforts included installation of a high-efficiency heating and cooling system at head office, purchasing 10 per cent of hydro from "green" sources and testing of green cleaning products at field centres.

Volunteer Services

Toronto and Region Conservation launched the **Environmental Volunteer Network** (EVN) in partnership with the Ontario Coalition of Agencies Serving Immigrants, funded by the Trillium Foundation of Ontario. The program is designed to train and engage diverse volunteers, including newcomers to Canada, in environmental and conservation initiatives, and to work with other environmentally-focused organizations to coordinate volunteers.

Over 3,500 volunteers contributed more than 35,000 hours of their time in 2003. Some provided assistance as scientific monitors, researchers, office assistants and educators, while others came out en masse to help out at events. Building on this success, EVN initiated orientation and training opportunities for new, regular service volunteers — attracting close to 200 new participants.

As membership continues to grow, EVN now provides recruitment and placement services, takes referred volunteers, and provides leadership, training and expertise on topics around volunteer management.

People Powering Conservation

Adopted in 1976, the **Recognition Awards Program** pays tribute to those members and staff recognized as having made significant contributions to TRCA. There are two categories of awards:

Honour Roll Awards

On Thursday, June 12, 2003, a Supporter Recognition Evening was held at Black Creek Pioneer Village, and the following Honour Roll Awards were presented:

Allan L. Beattie; David Bell; Alan Wells;
Brampton Clean City Committee;
Milne Park Conservation Association.

On this special occasion, we also paid tribute to our more than 600 faithful and valued volunteers who offer tremendous support in all aspects of our work, including provision of services at Black Creek Pioneer Village and the Kortright Centre for Conservation; membership in committees such as the Don Watershed Regeneration Council, the Duffins and Carruthers Creek watershed task forces, the Rouge Park Alliance, the Etobicoke and Mimico Coalition and the Humber Watershed Alliance; and participation in TRCA working committees and advisory committees.

We sincerely appreciate their dedication and commitment to conservation and their generous donation of time and energy in helping us deliver our vision for The Living City.

Service Recognition Awards

The **Service Recognition Awards Program** was created to recognize the TRCA advisory board and Foundation directors, as well as staff and volunteers, on an annual basis. The awards are based on years of service — three, six and 10 years for members and volunteers; and 10, 15 and 25 years for staff.

In 2003, the following service awards were presented: seven silver logo pins; 35 lifetime passes; four gold logo pins; 14 silver medallions; and eight gold medallions.

Recognition/Employee Suggestion Award Sub-Committee

Chair: Lorna Bissell; Members: Irene Jones and Jim McMaster.

Marketing and Communications

Marketing and Communications had another busy year with over 200 events planned, coordinated and promoted, and over 250 production jobs completed including displays, brochures, Web projects, watershed plans and more. Unique visitors to TRCA's Web site in 2003 was 547,325; on average, over 45,000 visitors a month (nearly double that of 2002). Positive media coverage was received in both print and electronic mediums. Of the more than 470 mentions, 52 per cent were articles, 36 per cent were event listings, seven per cent were electronic (TV and radio) and five per cent were photos.

The Conservation Foundation

Significant progress was made toward the $35 million goal of **The Living City Campaign**, and by the end of 2004 our objective will be achieved. Sincere thanks are extended to all donors and volunteers who have contributed their valuable time and resources. After reviewing the campaign activities, the Conservation Foundation will be moving forward with an annual fundraising program in support of The Living City.

The Conservation Foundation focuses on reforestation, education and sustainable communities to support the four objectives of The Living City: Healthy Rivers and Shorelines, Regional Biodiversity, Sustainable Communities and Business Excellence.

The Living City Circle was launched in 2003. This Planned Giving Program provides a way in which people can leave a legacy in their will to support our good work. We recognized two Conservation Foundation board members as our first contributors.

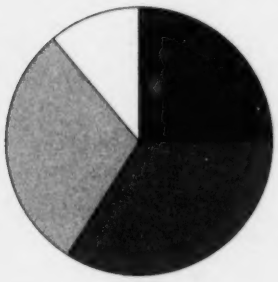
Major donors in 2003 include HSBC Bank Canada, an anonymous donor, Greater Toronto Airports Authority, Unilever Canada Foundation, Tetra Pak Canada Inc., Husky Injection Molding Systems Inc. and BASF Canada.

For the last 10 years, the Conservation Foundation has hosted the **Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner**. Nearly 1,000 people attended to hear Dr. Jane Goodall bring an impassioned message of environmental hope in 2003. Proceeds of $50,000 were used for protection of significant portions of land on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Top to bottom: Earth Rangers Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre; Honour Roll Award to David Bell; volunteers and Humber Watershed Alliance members tree planting at Boyd wetland; Dr. Jane Goodall at Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner.

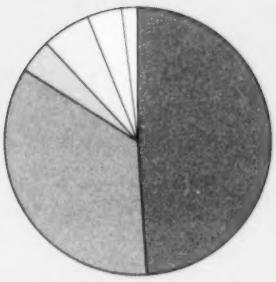
BROAD PROGRAM AREAS

EXPENDITURES



Conservation Land Management	25%
Watershed Health	34%
Conservation and Education Programs	30%
Corporate Services and Other	11%

REVENUE



Municipal Funding	49%
Fees, Sales, Rentals and Contract Services	35%
All Other Sources	4%
Provincial Funding	6%
Conservation Foundation	4%
Federal Funding	2%

KPMG

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Telefax (416) 228-7123
www.kpmg.ca

AUDITORS' REPORT ON SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

The accompanying summarized statements of financial position and financial activities and deficit are derived from the complete financial statements of The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority as at December 31, 2003 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated March 5, 2004. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Authority's financial position and results of financial activities and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants

Toronto, Canada
March 5, 2004

THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2003, with comparative figures for 2002

	2003	2002
Financial Assets and Liabilities		
Financial assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 4,630,510	$ 7,170,177
Marketable securities	5,972,541	3,946,392
Accounts receivable	4,854,192	2,297,135
Inventory	595,897	569,236
	16,053,140	13,982,940
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,478,847	2,797,796
Deferred revenue:		
Municipal levies	5,441,231	6,035,708
Capital and special projects	4,659,567	3,824,119
Vacation pay and sick leave entitlements	1,215,911	1,090,452
	15,795,556	13,748,075
Net financial assets	257,584	234,865
Non-financial assets:		
Prepaid expenses	277,802	222,304
	$ 535,386	$ 457,169
Fund Balances		
Reserves	2,226,692	2,210,949
Deficit	(475,395)	(750,461)
	1,751,297	1,460,488
Amounts to be funded in future years	(1,215,911)	(1,003,319)
	$ 535,386	$ 457,169

THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Summarized Statement of Financial Activities and Deficit

Year ended December 31, 2003, with comparative figures for 2002

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2002 Actual
Expenditures:			
Watershed management and health monitoring	$ 6,770,400	$ 5,585,189	$ 5,347,803
Environmental advisory services	1,918,200	2,142,279	1,678,053
Watershed stewardship	7,140,200	5,448,776	4,658,695
Conservation land management, development and acquisition	16,994,800	9,414,330	12,032,995
Conservation and education programming	11,890,700	11,314,155	9,760,898
Corporate services	4,101,900	4,073,014	3,757,400
Vehicle and equipment, net of usage charged	100,000	33,328	38,139
Increase in vacation pay and sick leave entitlements	–	212,592	192,612
Increase in non-financial assets	–	55,498	77,312
	48,916,200	38,279,161	37,543,907
Revenue:			
Municipal:			
Levies	23,079,400	17,938,773	15,597,599
Other	1,646,900	881,313	3,152,998
Government grants:			
MNR transfer payments	845,800	845,753	845,753
Provincial - other	1,996,900	1,484,291	2,331,100
Federal	510,000	788,874	495,698
Authority-generated:			
User fees, sales and admissions	9,044,400	8,701,344	8,346,873
Contract services	791,800	1,048,646	977,639
Interest income	300,000	364,839	303,447
Proceeds from sale of properties	650,000	12,675	140,486
The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto	1,274,000	1,378,319	1,754,324
Donations and fundraising	2,103,000	454,192	1,203,543
Facility and property rentals	1,974,400	1,478,331	1,469,796
Canada Post Corporation agreement	80,000	7,883	10,194
Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation	3,300,000	2,286,163	–
Sales and property tax refunds	55,000	123,167	366,116
Sundry	553,200	507,317	806,295
	48,204,800	38,301,880	37,801,861
Increase (decrease) in net financial assets	(711,400)	22,719	257,954
Increase in non-financial assets	–	55,498	77,312
Increase in amounts to be funded in future years	–	212,592	192,612
Increase (decrease) in fund balance	(711,400)	290,809	527,878
Appropriations from (to) reserves	811,400	(15,743)	(197,831)
	100,000	275,066	330,047
Deficit, beginning of year	(750,461)	(750,461)	(1,080,508)
Deficit, end of year	$ (650,461)	$ (475,395)	$ (750,461)

THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES AND MEMBERS 2003

ADJALA-TOSORONTIO AND MONO TOWNSHIPS

A. Ketchum

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

D. Barrow
M. Di Biase*
B. O'Donnell
L. Pabst
F. Scarpitti

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

Dave Ryan
J. McMaster*
G. L. O'Connor*

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL

L. Bissell*
S. DiMarco
C. Gyles
M. Prentice
I. Sinclair

CITY OF TORONTO

M. Augimeri*
B. Balkissoon
I. Bossons
R. Cho
F. Ford
S. Hall
I. Jones*
P. McConnell
P. Milczyn
R. Moeser*
D. O'Brien (chair)*
J. Pantalone
S. Shaw
K.E. Wells

*Executive Committee Members

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

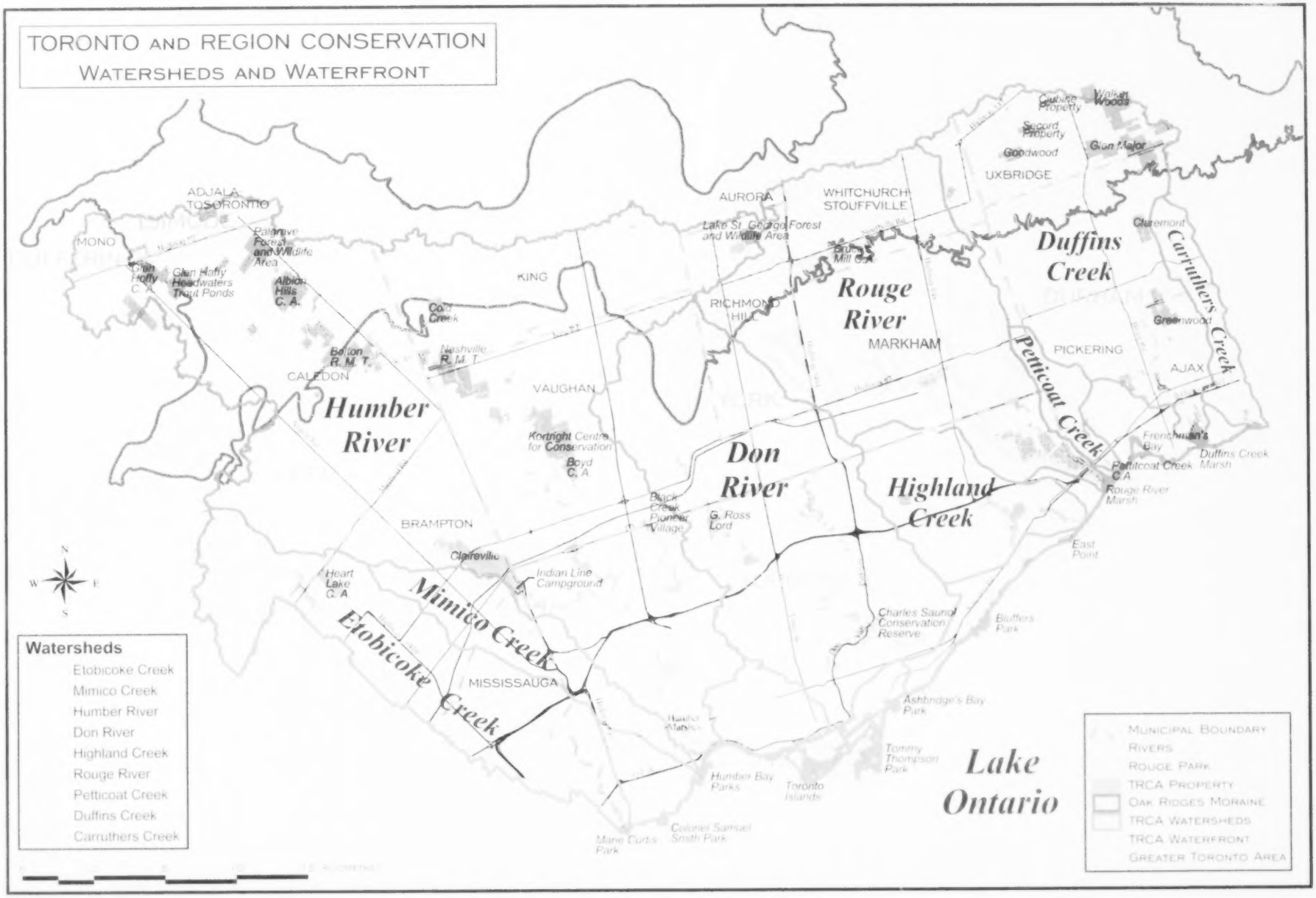
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/SECRETARY TREASURER
Brian Denney

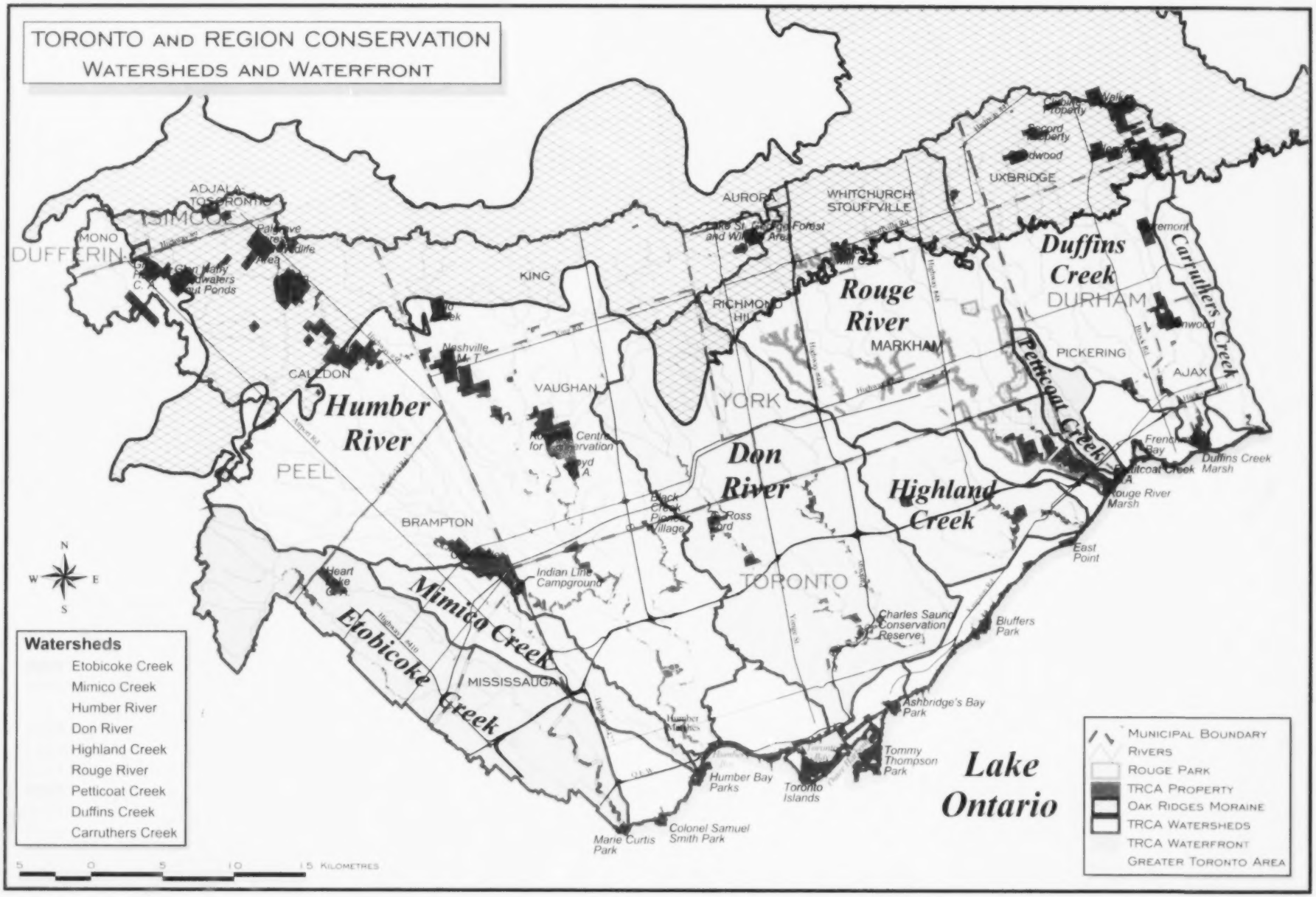
DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
James Dillane

DIRECTOR, THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION OF GREATER TORONTO
Ted Fauteux

ACTING DIRECTOR, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
Adele Freeman

Craig Mather was Chief Administrative Officer until May 16, 2003.


TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION
WATERSHEDS AND WATERFRONT
Watersheds
Etobicoke Creek
Mimico Creek
Humber River
Don River
Highland Creek
Rouge River
Petticoat Creek
Duffins Creek
Carruthers Creek
Lake Ontario
MONO
ADJALA TOSORONTIO
KING
CALEDON
VAUGHAN
BRAMPTON
MISSISSAUGA
AURORA
RICHMOND HILL
WHITCHURCH STOUFFVILLE
MARKHAM
UXBRIDGE
PICKERING
AJAX
Glen Haffy C.A.
Glen Haffy Headwaters Trout Ponds
Palgrave Forest and Wildlife Area
Albion Hills C.A.
Cold Creek
Nashville R.M.T.
Bolton R.M.T.
Kortright Centre for Conservation
Boyd C.A.
Black Creek Pioneer Village
G. Ross Lord
Claireville
Indian Line Campground
Heart Lake C.A.
Lake St. George Forest and Wildlife Area
Bruce Mill C.A.
Clubine Property
Walker Woods
Second Property
Goodwood
Glen Major
Claremont
Greenwood
Frenchman's Bay
Duffins Creek Marsh
Petticoat Creek C.A.
Rouge River Marsh
East Point
Charles Sauriol Conservation Reserve
Bluffers Park
Ashbridge's Bay Park
Tommy Thompson Park
Humber Bay Parks
Toronto Islands
Colonel Samuel Smith Park
Marie Curtis Park
Municipal Boundary
Rivers
Rouge Park
TRCA Property
Oak Ridges Moraine
TRCA Watersheds
TRCA Waterfront
Greater Toronto Area


TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION
WATERSHEDS AND WATERFRONT
Watersheds
Etobicoke Creek
Mimico Creek
Humber River
Don River
Highland Creek
Rouge River
Petticoat Creek
Duffins Creek
Carruthers Creek
Lake Ontario
Humber River
Mimico Creek
Etobicoke Creek
Don River
Rouge River
Highland Creek
Petticoat Creek
Duffins Creek
Carruthers Creek
DUFFERIN
SIMCOE
PEEL
YORK
TORONTO
DURHAM
MONO
ADJALA-TOSORONTIO
KING
CALEDON
VAUGHAN
BRAMPTON
MISSISSAUGA
AURORA
RICHMOND HILL
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
MARKHAM
UXBRIDGE
PICKERING
AJAX
Nashville
Indian Line Campground
Black Creek Pioneer Village
Ross Ford
Charles Sauriol Conservation Reserve
Humber Bay Parks
Toronto Islands
Tommy Thompson Park
Ashbridge's Bay Park
Bluffers Park
East Point
Rouge River Marsh
Duffins Creek Marsh
Marie Curtis Park
Colonel Samuel Smith Park
N
S
E
W
5 0 5 10 15 KILOMETRES
MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
RIVERS
ROUGE PARK
TRCA PROPERTY
OAK RIDGES MORAINE
TRCA WATERSHEDS
TRCA WATERFRONT
GREATER TORONTO AREA

Front cover: Aerial view, Brampton.
Inside cover: Naturalized garden, Etobicoke.
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Black Creek Pioneer Village • Kortright Centre for Conservation • Indian Line Campground • Albion Hills Conservation Area and Campground • Boyd Conservation Area • Bruce's Mill Conservation Area • Glen Haffy Conservation Area • Heart Lake Conservation Area • Petticoat Creek Conservation Area • Lake St. George Field Centre • Albion Hills Field Centre • Claremont Field Centre

TORONTO AND REGION Conservation for The Living City

Member of Conservation ONTARIO

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